

20 YEARS!



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20TH ANNIVERSARY
BASH!
SCHOLARSHIP & AWARD NIGHT

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Sunday 12:00PM - 9:30PM

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

DINNER BY SALVATORES

6PM: DINNER - MUSIC BY RICK BELLANTI

7PM: WELCOME: Jana Zanni Pesce

(1) (EDMUND LO SCHOLARSHIP - CARRIE WEILAND)

JOHN RATKA HERO VETERAN AWARD

(2) WHITTIER TECH. SCHOLARSHIP

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(3) GREATER LAWRENCE TECH. SCHOLARSHIP

**(4) DAN STRANGE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
HAVERHILL HIGH**

TOM DUGGAN'S REMARKS

*** 1ST AMENDMENT AWARD***

SCOTT CLEGG GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AWARD

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(BREAK)

COMEDIAN JOHNNY JOYCE

(5) STUDIO 21 PODCAST CAFE - METHUEN HIGH

(6) PHIL GLENDYE SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOLARSHIP

(7) DAN COADY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**(8) Eugene Smith LAWRENCE HIGH JrROTC
& The John Ratka Memorial Scholarship**

OFFICER TOM DUGGAN SR. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

RAFFLE DRAWING

MUSIC AND DANCING

Bell Aire Music Productions, with DJ Rick Bellanti

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PROGRAMS: **Bob Wescott at Copilabs:**
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PHOTOGRAPHERS: **Angel Garcia & Rich Russell**

VIDEO: **Lawrence Cable Access**



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Methuen Councillor

Jayna Zanni Pesce



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Johnny Joyce/comedian booking agent.

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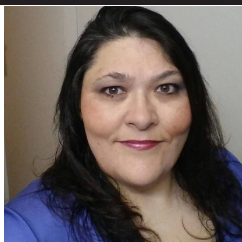


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2024 Bash Host Committee



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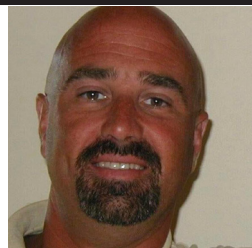
Sharon & Barry Booker



Jess Finocchiaro



Jill Stackelin



Bob Murdock



Denise Donlan



Eric Melanson



Rick Bellanti



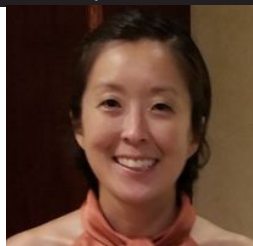
Nancy Gorman



Kelly Muldoon



Jana Zanni Pesce



Sonia Kwon



*** VALLEY PATRIOT JOHN RATKA
HERO VETERAN AWARD**

Because honoring Veterans is so much a part of what we do at The Valley Patriot, tonight we honor people who themselves honor our hero service men and women here at home. With the passing of our good friend and hero vetran John Ratka we have decided to name this award (which he won in 2016) the John Ratka Hero Veteran Award. Tonight we honor John and at least two two veterans who not only served their country overseas but continued to serve their country here at home. Whether it's public service, or helping other veterans, tonight's recipients are men who embody what service and sacrifice are all about.



John Ratka

PREVIOUS WINNERS: (2013) David Swarbrick, John Lenottee, & Helen Mooradkianian (2014) Francisco Urena & Tom Fallon. (2015) Bruce Arnold Salvucci, John MacDonald & Eric Nelson (2016) J.T. Torres - Donald Jarvis - John Ratka -(2017) Randy Carter and Gerard MaGuire (2018) Dan Cotnoir & Steve Paine * (2019) Eugene Smith and John Cuddy (2020-2021) Covid Hysteria (2022) Jason Gilbert & Jeannette Mason * (2023) Kevin Lynch and Linda Dean Campbell * (2024) eric Ryan & Robert L. Moscillo (posthumous)



*** \$250 Scholarship Donor ***

Nam Knights Merrimack Valley



* VALLEY PATRIOT JOHN RATKA HERO VETERAN AWARD

Eric Ryan, USMC

Eric was born and raised in Haverhill, MA, alongside his younger brother by their single mother, as their father had passed away just before Eric began school. He expresses gratitude for his mother's resilience and the positive influence of his two grandfathers, both World War II veterans, who served as his male role models. Despite their reluctance to discuss their military experiences, they imparted invaluable life lessons about perseverance and honoring those who served.

Neither grandfather spoke much about their military service but instead focused on imparting wisdom about military culture and the importance of camaraderie. One of them humorously deflected questions about his service by joking about his lengthy college education, while the other shared his journey of pursuing his dream of becoming a fighter pilot despite obstacles such as color blindness, ultimately finding fulfillment as an aircraft mechanic.

Eric reflects on how he only learned about his grandfathers' military roles much later, realizing their remarkable contributions despite their humility. He credits them, along with his strong-willed mother, for shaping his character and instilling values of determination and compassion.

Despite not immediately pursuing a military career after high school, Eric enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 30, driven by a desire to uphold his family's values and make a meaningful contribution to this nation. His dedication and leadership skills were recognized during training, earning him a meritorious promotion during his service.

Following his deployment in 2003, Eric transitioned to a career in law enforcement, quickly rising to the rank of Sergeant. He later earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology from Salem State University in 2008.

After being medically retired in 2020, Eric sought a new sense of purpose and found it through volunteering with the service dog program at Clear Path for Veterans New England. His commitment and passion led to a job offer, and he now works at the Bedford Veterans Quarters, providing case management, support, advocacy and guidance to formerly homeless veterans.

Eric finds fulfillment in his work, guided by a commitment to honesty, advocacy, and support for veterans in need. He believes in the importance of fostering a sense of worth and accomplishment among veterans and is optimistic about the future of Clear Path for Veterans New England in transforming veterans' lives for the better. Eric believes he is right where he needs to be, continuing his service alongside his brothers and Sisters. Semper Fidelis.





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MARCH 22, 2024

20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH



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*** VALLEY PATRIOT JOHN RATKA HERO VETERAN AWARD**

Marine Lance Corporal Robert L. Moscillo

November 24, 1984 ~ May 1, 2006

Operation Iraqi Freedom

1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division,

I Marine Expeditionary Force

Camp Pendleton, CA

Marine Lance Corporal Robert L. Moscillo (21), of Salem, NH; killed in action while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Anbar province, Iraq.

Robert, also called Bobby or “Chappy” by family and friends was a 2003 graduate of Salem (N.H.) High School where he played baseball and was on the wrestling team. He had ambition to get out of Salem and be something more than just a high school graduate.

Bobby’s interest in his faith goes back to when he was a young patron of vacation bible school. His interest was nurtured by the guidance of the Rev. Dennis Scott of the Community Bible Fellowship Church of the Nazarene in Manchester.

In January 2005, he answered a call to serve our country by enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps. He had planned to make a career out of the military. He successfully completed recruit training, marine combat training, combat engineer school, and the Martial Arts Program with a Tan Belt and was assigned to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served as a combat engineer. In February 2006, Bobby deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the following month was promoted to the rank of lance corporal. He was a machine gunner, the unit was charged with detecting land mines.

1st Lt. Nathan E. Zygmunt, Bobby’s platoon commander said that he was a solid performer and a hard worker who volunteered for any task, as well as remembered by his fellow soldiers for his Boston accent.

Bobby was killed in action by an improvised explosive device explosion while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the vicinity of Fallujah in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. The family notes that Bobby’s death was almost exactly 30 years after the death of his uncle Robert L. Moscillo, for who he is named, who died returning home from Navy service during the Vietnam War in 1976.

His awards and decorations include the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Iraq Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Bobby is survived by his mother Donna and father Frank; sister Sandra, brothers David and Joseph; half-sister, Jenny and half-brother Frankie, and his extended family.



MARCH 22, 2024

20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH



THE VALLEY PATRIOT



2004

20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH EDITION!

2024



"Congress shall make no law..."

March 22, 2024

*** \$3,000 DONOR ***



2022 Scott Clegg - Public Service
Award Winner Carrie Wieland
& the Franz Acres Association

Edmund Lo Scholarship, Salem, N.H.

2024 Whittier Tech Scholarship

Kauren Urena

This scholarship was started by Whittier Tech. alum Al Veilleux for a Whittier Tech senior going into college. This is our 5th year giving out the Whittier Tech Scholarship. Haverhill School Committeeman Scott Wood and officials at Whittier help in the selection of applicants chosen for this scholarship.

This year’s recipient is Kauren Urena

Kauren is completing her final year in our Electrical Program and has aspirations of going to college to study construction management. Kauren has shown tremendous academic growth since her freshman year, starting in lower-level courses as a freshman but is currently enrolled in Honors and dual-enrollment classes earning her college credit at Northern Essex Community College.



In her shop, Kauren holds several certifications within the trade, including OSHA and HotWorks.

As a participant in our co-op program, Kauren works full time every other week at Phoenix Electrical, while still holding part-time employment at her other jobs to help support her single-parent household. Although working has been her priority, Kauren did find the time to participate in track and field during her junior year and has also had some volunteer hours helping at a family-run daycare.

Throughout her high school years, Kauren has adopted the mantra of “don’t let life pass you by” and has sought out opportunities to enrich her learning experience and plan for her future.

We are so proud of what Kauren has accomplished and are happy to help her achieve her goals of working in construction management.



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YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGH THE YEARS!!

2024 GLTS Scholarship Winner**Arianna Valerio**

This scholarship was started ten years ago by Methuen City Councilor Jessica Finocchiario who was on the Gr. Lawrence Tech. School Committee at the time. This is the 2nd school to ever receive a scholarship at a Valley Patriot BASH. Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan is an alum of the tech school (Freshman and Sophomore year) This year Jessica Finocchiario chose Arianna Valerio.

Arianna Valerio, daughter of Danielle Sweetney, has been a student at Greater Lawrence Regional Technical High School since September, 2020.

She is studying in the Medical Assistant program and is looking to further her education in the Medical field. As a student at Greater Lawrence she has become a Certified Medical Assistant. She is also certified in CPR/First Aid and OSHA. She also was a co teacher for the freshman medical assistant class of 2026. She is currently preparing to sit for her pharmacy boards to become a certified pharmacy technician. She is currently employed as pharmacy technician at CVS Pharmacy through our cooperative education program.

Arianna has been very successful in her academic coursework at Greater Lawrence with a 4.33 GPA and is currently ranked 6th out of 409 students in the Class of 2024. Arianna has never backed away from an academic challenge and is currently enrolled in our honor level classes.

Arianna is a member of the National Honor Society because of her outstanding academic achievement and community service.

Arianna has contributed to her school community as a volunteer a class officer, student volunteer for medical assisting, and as a tutor in her career area for younger students.

Arianna has competed in Skills USA and as a representative of her career area at our health fair. Arianna has also looked after younger children as a babysitter and dog sitter many times.

Arianna is a very responsible and conscientious young woman. Her experiences have allowed her to develop and to use her excellent communication skills and leadership skills which will help her in college.



2024 Dan Strange Memorial Scholarship

Lizet Deferia

Haverhill High School

She loves this Country!

Lizet Deferia is a senior at Haverhill High, who is also enrolled at Northern Essex Community College and the Haverhill High School EMT program.



She has been enrolled in the Haverhill High School JrROTC program since she was a freshman; during this time she has earned awards from the American Legion, Scottish Rite, and National Sojourners, which are all nomination awards and extremely competitive awards, others include, outstanding cadet, student leadership, officer leadership, NCO leadership, civic service, distinguished scholastic awards, arts and academics, distinguished military training, physical achievement, athletic participation award, longevity and fidelity, distinguished conduct and best drill squad, to name a few.

Lizet is part of the color guard, and drum and bugle corps.

She has volunteered at the MSPCA and she is a licensed CNA and has her Basic Life Support Certification and Basic and Advanced Dementia care certifications.

“SHE BELIEVES THERE IS A SOLUTION FOR EVERYTHING”

She has enlisted in the Massachusetts Army Reserves and will be attending college upon completion of basic training. She has applied to URI, FSU, Emmanuel, Penn State, Syracuse University, University of Tampa, and Rutgers University, and her acceptance letters will arrive soon.



Gone but
never forgotten!

Congratulations! Lizet Deferia



Dan Strange
waiting for
Chemo with his
Valley Patriot
2019

Winner of the Dan Strange Memorial Scholarship

**from Jerry Flynn and Everyone at the
New England Police Benevolent Association**

The Dan Strange Memorial Scholarship was established by Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan in cooperation with Jerry Flynn of the New England Police Benevolent Association. Dan Strange was not only an attendee at every Valley Patriot BASH, but was also a member of The Valley Patriot BASH Committee. His role on the committee was to choose police officers worthy of the Officer Tom Duggan Sr. Hero Police Officer Award.

Dan passed in August of 2020 of colon cancer. Since then a scholarship has been given out in his name every year at the annual BASH.

The recipient of this scholarship are normally chosen by former Haverhill School Committeeman Scott Wood. However, this year's recipient was chosen by Dee O'Neil of 411 Cares in cooperation with the Haverhill High School JrROTC commander.

Dan wanted to make sure we remind everyone to get a colonoscopy.

SCOTT CLEGG GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AWARD

A few years ago we lost a great friend and life long supporter of The Valley Patriot, Scott Clegg. Scott was a man who went out of his way to donate his time, money and resources to helping those less fortunate as well as honoring veterans, and being active in the community. We are naming our Goodwill Ambassador Award for Scott so that people will always remember the goodwill he brought to our community.



Once called the Honorable Mention Award, The Goodwill Ambassador Award was given to TWO people who do not necessarily work for The Valley Patriot but act as goodwill ambassadors in the community. This Award was retired a few years ago and rolled into the President's Award until the passing of Scott Clegg who was the ultimate community service advocate in Lawrence.

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

(2013) Mike Grammont & Tracey Zysk

(2014) Rich Russel & Shawn Hansen

(2015) John Bergeron & Gracemarie & Joyce Tomaselli

(2016) Jack Roy & Mike & Candy Colizzi

(2017) No Nominees * (2018) No Nominees

(2019) Michael Gorman and the kids of TME, Carina Pappalardo

(2020-2021) COVID HYSTERIA

(2022) Nancy Gorman, Carrie Weiland, and Linda Soucy

(2023) Jill Stackelin & Sue Evans

2024 NOMINEES:



Sharon Marie



Dr. Natalie Stahl

SCOTT CLEGG GOODWILL AMBASSADOR AWARD

SHARON MARIE

Sharon Marie was instrumental in helping the community during the Columbia Gas Explosions and has been an important advocate for the homeless through TMF and House of Mercy in Lawrence.

Sharon used to help Carrie Wieland pick up all of the excess food not being served at the temporary shelters and distributed it directly to the homeless. During Covid, Sharon tirelessly helped keeping the refrigerator stocked at House of Mercy when guests were not allowed inside. That was a lifeline for people! She was Picking up 300 sandwiches three times a week in Andover in her Camaro and was even using her fridge at home to store food.

Sharon is the driving force in helping people over the hurdles of getting into detox, and has been seen driving many people directly to Detox, homeless shelters, and/or treatment centers. She is always giving her personal cell phone number to people in need, and telling them to call even if they just need a friend to talk to. That means the world to people living on the streets, estranged from all of their family and friends, or feel like they literally have no one in the world to turn to!

2024 Special Needs Scholarship

Phil Glendye Memorial Scholarship



Phil Glendye was a teacher in Lawrence and ran the Special Olympics for 25 years at the Veterans Memorial Stadium. This is our second year honoring Phil at our BASH with a scholarship in his name because nobody cared more .. or did more... for the special needs kids in Lawrence than PHIL GLENDYE!



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Long before I ever ran for office I was a loyal reader of The Valley Patriot. As the Lawrence City Council President, and now a State Representative, I find it vital to keeping up with what's going on in my district. Tommy, Congratulations on hitting yet **another** historic milestone, your 20TH ANNIVERSARY! **Here's hoping for many more!**

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

FRANK MORAN STATE REPRESENTATIVE



I Remember how they Laughed **20 Years and 245 Editions Ago**

I REMEMBER SO WELL ...

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in Lawrence City Hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was a breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days, you ought to be proud!

I also remember taking my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper, but it was always fair and never personal.

Mostly, I remember when you first unveiled your vision for standards in journalism, how you were laughed at and mocked by the political insiders and the newspaper industry.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
GETTING THE LAST LAUGH!**

Mike Sullivan



(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

THE VALLEY PATRIOT
"Congress shall make no law..."
2004 20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH EDITION! 2024

March 22, 2024

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Congratulations to

The Valley Patriot!



It's hard to believe that it was 20 years ago when The Valley Patriot first hit the streets. But, looking back at all the corruption you have exposed, and the way you have educated the public about our government, I know the Merrimack Valley is better off for your efforts! Congratulations to Tom and everyone at The Valley Patriot for not only exercising, but defending the 1st Amendment of the United States Constitution!

~Mike Gagliardi~

20 Years of Exposing Corruption & Taking on the Establishment!

from the VERY first edition!

-Mike Gagliardi,

Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America



2024 Studio 21 Podcast Cafe Scholarship

Calysa Alba

Methuen High



Calysa is a member of the National Honor Society, was the president of the junior class, served in the Mock Trial Club for 2 years, and ran on the outdoor track team for one year. She is currently the stage manager and president of our theater club, Stage Door 22, where she previously served as front office manager and actor.

Calysa has spent the last two years as a photography apprentice (lead photography apprentice in 23-24) at Elevated Thought, a local social justice 501(c)(3) organization that provides space for BI-POC youth to create art and change in the community. Calysa wanted to work but rather than apply to a local coffee shop or grocery store like many of her peers, she sought out an opportunity to both get paid for doing what she loves, and also fine tune her medium to inspire change in our local community.

She represents Methuen High School in 2 state-wide organizations – State Student Advisory Council & Northeast Regional Student Advisory Council – where she advocates for improvements in the American education system.

She's also a member of the Methuen Youth Action Committee, a small group of student leaders that partners with Methuen City Council to effect change in the community. She recently advocated to our school district administration for a revision in the student handbook to specifically outline a no tolerance policy for hate speech in school.

Calysa's extracurricular activities take up much of her free time, and yet she still manages to earn high grades with her impressive course load.

She has consistently earned A's and B's in her Honors and Advanced Placement courses throughout high school. Recently, Calysa earned the Student Outstanding Achievement Recognition award in History and Social Sciences, an award that is given to one student in the senior class in each academic discipline. Calysa hopes to pursue a career in the journalism field, more specifically in film and photo. To that end, she has taken several art courses in both visual and performing arts throughout high school, and is currently in an intensive, year-long film seminar.

Last year, following a series of student crises, Calysa stepped up in a leadership role to create a student-led video talking about the various mental health services that our school offers. This video was subsequently presented to all 2,000 students at the school.

She is mature beyond her years, well spoken and eager to learn! Honest, trustworthy, and reliable, she is driven to be a change maker and is interested in journalism, film, photography, and many other forms of media production.

This is why she is Methuen High School's Recipient of the Studio 21 Podcast Cafe scholarship!



**THANK
YOU DAVE!!**

Three years years ago Dave Gorafolo of Two Guys Smoke Shop and “The Studio 21 Podcast Cafe” in Salem, N.H. donated \$2,100 to start our first scholarship for a student in the Valley going into communications or media.

In Memory of Edmund Lo



With the deepest respect the Lo Family's Gold Star Table has been paid for by Greg Morris of Lawrence!





THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

2004

20TH ANNIVERSARY BASH EDITION!

2024

March 22, 2024

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1st Amendent Award WINNER!

The Valley Patriot's Dan Coady, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Four years ago, one of our readers, Al Veilleux donated \$500 to start a scholarship in memory of Dan Coady Jr. who was killed in tragic accident on Rt. 495 just a week before our annual BASH in 2018. Each year Al asks that we keep the Dan Coady Memorial Scholarship going for students who attended the Thomson Grammar School in North Andover where at least one of Dan Coadys children attended at the time. Al's goal was to keep this scholarship going every year in the hopes that Dan's children will be able to receive this scholarship when they graduate from High School. Two years ago Dan's oldest son Patrick received this scholarship in the amount of \$7,390.



THANK YOU DARLENE FORD
AND AAA MERRIMACK VALLEY



for your support of the homeless!

2024 Special Needs Scholarship

Brigid Gaffny

Brigid Gaffny, a proud sixth generation North Andover resident attended the Thomson School from Kindergarten through fifth grade.

As a senior at North Andover High School, she has excelled academically as well as athletically. She's a member of the National Honor Society with a 3.9 grade point average, and a two-sport captain on the volleyball and softball teams. As a member of the Captains Council, Brigid created partner teams to encourage school spirit, enlisted captains to make thank you cards for the custodial staff, and visited elementary schools in North Andover to share what it means to play a high school sport and be a team leader.

Volunteerism is extremely important to Brigid. She has volunteered hundreds of hours coaching young athletes in North Andover with the Booster Club program running pitching clinics and coaching with the volleyball program.

She has spearheaded food and goods donation drives for Lazarus House. Brigid provided Christmas gifts for veterans in need in the Merrimack Valley. She has organized fundraisers for breast cancer research, melanoma research, and the Sarah Strong Foundation.

This past Labor Day weekend, Brigid participated in the A Shot For Life Baseball and Softball Homerun Derby and Pitchers Challenge, participating with some of the best talent from all over the state. She won the Pitchers Challenge and the event raised \$90,000 for cancer research at Massachusetts General Hospital.

On the softball field, Brigid is a two-time team captain, two-time MVP, as well as a three-time first team all MVC player. As a junior, she hit .415 with 22 RBI's and 2 homeruns. In the circle she had a 2.20 ERA, 167 strikeouts, and 14 wins including pitching an 8 inning, 5 hit, 9 strikeout win over 20-0 Wachusett in the Division 1 state tournament.

Brigid will continue her academic and athletic endeavors at Bates College next fall, where she will apply the life lessons of hard work, resilience, and courage learned from the Thomson School.



Eugene Smith - John Ratka Memorial Lawrence High School JrROTC Scholarship

Eileen Suarez

Eileen Suarez is the 19th Lawrence High School graduate to receive this scholarship.

She is a 17-year-old student at Lawrence High School. Her family came to the United States of America in the mid 90's when her great grandfather decided to change the future of the family by moving here from Dominican Republic.

Eileen was born and raised in Lawrence, Massachusetts. She is currently the JROTC Lancer Battalion Commander for the 2023-2024 school year.

She has been a key member of the JROTC program for the last three years. She has been an active member the Drill & Ceremony team since her first year as a JROTC cadet, culminating as the overall commander, and has also participated in various MAP and Raider teams.

Eileen has seized the opportunities these experiences have afforded her and was one of 5 cadets from the Lancer Battalion selected to participate in an exchange opportunity with British Cadet in England.

She is extremely grateful to her older brother for introducing her to the JROTC program.

Outside of her school activities, Eileen was an intern at Charles River Labs last summer.

After High School her future plans include becoming the first person in her family to graduate college and to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner. She loves helping others and wants to continue doing so. She is excited to see where life takes her.



\$1,500 Scholarship Sponsor **Eugene Smith - Military Connections**

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\$1,500 Scholarship Sponsor **John Ratka Memorial Fund**

EVERY YEAR!!!



PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS: 2010-Davante Jones, Franklin Pierce University| 2011-Crismelys Ruiz, Lincoln Tech. Lowell - Med Asst.| 2012-Ambar Hussein-Martinez, Northern Essex| 2013-Thalia Garcia, Westfield State University: 2014 Sofia Cardenas and Ramses Jimenez Candelario | 2015 winners Christopher Pichardo & Caroline Garcia | 2016 winners Kevin Vanderhorst & Thu Dang. | 2017 Winners Christian Lantigua and Leslie Morerro, | 2018 Darlene Santos | 2019 Rachel Hiraldo | 2020 Camilla Herrera | 2021 Covid Hysteria | 2022 Katerin Ucles | 2023 Jaraliz Morales | **2024 Eileen Suarez**

***OFFICER TOM DUGGAN SR. PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS**

On March 16, 1990, Lawrence Police Officer Tom Duggan Sr. lost his life in the line of duty. He was a man who loved being a police officer and lived his life responding to cries for help in the community. While he worked on many major cases and high profile crimes, he always said that it was the day to day work he did on and off duty to help people in small ways that really made his job worth doing. This year we honor his service and sacrifice with "The Valley Patriot, Officer Tom Duggan Sr., Law Enforcement Award." The award is given to members of public safety (police or fire) and/or one civilian who honors the service and personal sacrifice police officers and firefighters make every day. Officer Duggan believed that those little extra things we do in life to help others ... make the biggest differences in people's lives at the end of the day and makes the world around us a better place.

PAST WINNERS:

- (2013):** Wheelabrator's Scott Emerson & Methuen Police Officer Dan O'Connell.
- (2014)** Amesbury Police Officer Jason Kookan & Lawrence Firefighter Manny Gonzalez
- (2015)** Ret. Woburn Police Officer Bob DiNapoli & Lawrence Fire Chief Brian Murphy
- (2016)** Lawrence Police Officer Mike Laliberte & N. Andover Police Sgt. Dan Lanen, Lawrence Firefighter James Driscoll
- (2017)** Methuen Police Chief Tim Sheehy & Haverhill Police Officer Guy Cooper
- (2018)** Lawrence Police Sgt Mike Simard, Lawrence Police Lt. Jim Raso, N. A. Police Chief Charles Gray, Lawrence Firefighter William Pagan
- (2019)** Lawrence Police Lt. Sean Conway, Lawrence Police Officer Carl Farrington, Lawrence Firefighter Mike Maglio
- (2020-2021)** Covid Hysteria
- (2022)** Lawrence Police Officers Timothy Dube & Thomas Meyers, and Lawrence Firefighters: Lt. Rene Lavallee, Wilson Ventura and Rick Mendonca
- (2023)** Lawrence Firefighter Mike DeLaney Sr., Methuen Police Officers Kevin Schiavone & James Keating
- (2024)** Jerry Flynn, Lowell Police (Ret.) & Methuen Police Officer Derek Licata



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Year Remembrance...

You will never be forgotten

Lawrence Police Officer
Tom Duggan, Sr.



Killed in the line of duty
March 16, 1990



Remembering a Hero who died for our community.

2024 OFFICER TOM DUGGAN SR.
HERO POLICE OFFICER AWARD

Methuen Police Sgt. Derek Licata

Sgt. Licata is being recognized for his work, going well beyond the call of duty to support the many charitable endeavors that are dear to him, to us, and our community, including some of the following:

Debbie's Treasure Chest: DTC is an organization that was founded right here in the Merrimack Valley. Their mission is to help children from disadvantaged families reach their full potential by providing them with some of the resources they need to thrive. Those resources include things like clothing, books, toys, toiletries, scholastic tools, and other necessities. Sgt. Licata joined DTC in 2007.



As part of Sgt. Licata's commitment to both DTC and MPD, he leads the annual toy drive, annual coat drive, and annual school supply drive.

Due to Sgt. Licata's leadership, the MPD has collected and distributed more than 20,000 toys to Merrimack Valley children during the last 10 years. The majority of those toys went to the most needy organizations in our area including the Department of Children and Families and Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Association.

Sgt. Licata collected/distributed school supplies for more than 10 years, including hundreds of backpacks and school supplies to kids who would otherwise go without.

Coat Drive: Just 3 years ago, Sgt. Licata realized there was yet another unmet need in our community. So, he launched an annual winter coat drive. In the 3 years that would follow, the MPD has collected and distributed hundreds of coats, hats, and winter gloves to those that needed them most. But Sgt. Licata's passion for helping others didn't stop there. He understood so many of our local families had experienced the unwelcome touch of Cancer. He understood the challenges those families faced, and he wanted to make sure they wouldn't face them alone so, he looked at ways to support the Dana Farber Cancer Institute: Dana Farber Cancer Institute is committed to providing adults and children with cancer with the best treatment available today while developing tomorrow's cures through cutting edge research.

Under Sgt. Licata's leadership the MPD has since participated in the Pink Patch Project and the Drop it Challenge. In our first year (2022), the Methuen Police Department donated \$6,302. In 2023, the Methuen Police topped the leaderboard of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute's Pink Patch Project, raising another \$3,690.

Drop It Challenge – The Methuen Police Department team raised \$7,700, earning it third place overall. Licata came in first place for the State with the most funds raised for an individual with \$5,500.

Total funds raised in just the last two years = \$17,692.

Please join me in congratulating Sgt. Derek Licata, this year's recipient of the Valley Patriot's "Tom Duggan Sr. Law Enforcement Award"

2024 OFFICER TOM DUGGAN SR.

HERO POLICE OFFICER AWARD



Retired Lowell Police Officer
Jerry Flynn
(with Dan Strange)



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**Jerry Flynn, Executive Director
Christopher Ryan, President**

*** LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ***
*** LEO LAMONTAGNE ***

Leo Lamontagne, a longtime resident of South Lawrence graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1972. Leo studied Automotive Repair at Greater Lawrence Technical High School, where he served on the School Committee for 38 years.



Leo founded Leo's Auto Repair in 1975 at the age of 19. In 1981, Leo married his high school sweetheart, Debbie and later changed the name to Leo & Sons Auto Repair in 1986 after the birth of their sons, Leo III & Matthew.

The shop has been on South Broadway, Lawrence for 48 years. Leo's dedication to his community is evident through the many programs and activities he participated in. He spearheaded with others the Lawrence Santa parade for 10 years. He participated in the Adopt A Park program in Lawrence for many years.

While on the GLTS school committee for 38 consecutive years, he guided Greater Lawrence Tech through many challenges and even more successes. His objective while on the school committee was always to better the lives and education of the students and families he represented. Leo enjoys traveling to Disney World, playing golf, watching Red Sox games, fishing and boating at their lake house, but most importantly spending time with his 3 grandchildren, Maxwell, Rudy & Zoe.

*** LIFETIME ***
*** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ***



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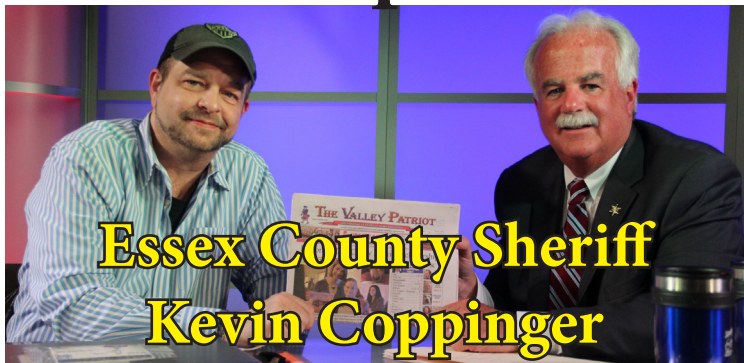
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Kevin Copping**

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"Congress shall make no law..."
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WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING
WITH US NOW IN SPIRIT



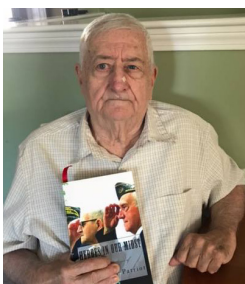
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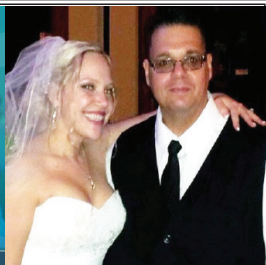
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~ TOM DUGGAN



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